Request for sanction of posts

†2242. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had sent its requests for sanction of the posts for recruitment of staff in National Medicinal Plant Board;

(b) the date on which requests of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were accepted; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereofor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The initial proposal from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for creation of 10 ministerial posts for the National Medicinal Plant Board was received on 12.6.2002. The proposal was returned to the administrative ministry on 25.6.2002 for additional information. The proposal was thereafter received back on 26.7.2002.

(b) and (c) In view of the general ban on creation of posts and also the requirement being for ministrerial posts only, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were advised on 20th August, 2002 to meet their requirement by redeployment of posts from within their existing strength.

Benami Transaction Act, 1988

2243. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to crack down on benami transactions by framing strict rules under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Benami transactions have been most common in real estate business and is the largest means of generating black money; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government's new rules under the Benami Transactions Act, will plug loopholes in real estate business?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Law has pointed out serious legal infirmities in the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 because of which Rules for implementation of the Act have not been framed.

(c) Sector-wise details are not available as the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 has not been implemented.

(d) Does not arise, as Rules have not been framed.

"Special Small Savings Scheme"

2244. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a special small savings scheme for the benefit of common people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Various small savings schemes, currently in force, are designed to cater to the needs of different categories of small investors/common people. There is no proposal for introduction of a new small savings scheme under consideration of the Government.

Increase in TA of Government employees

2245. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to increase travelling allowance of Government employees of Group 'C' and 'D' Staff;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.